

Portsmouth Agriculture Committee

January 29, 2014, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

AGENDA

Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Approve October meeting minutes

OLD BUSINESS

- Review/Discuss - Zoning Ordinance Amendment proposed by Portsmouth's Planner, Gary Crosby.
- Status Update/Brief of RI Agricultural Partnership projects including Agricultural Guidelines, Ag. website
- Update/Brief of current farmer projects in Portsmouth and on Aquidneck Island

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Events of interest to farmers and growers:
 - **Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Winter Conferences** in seven northeast states from Feb. – Mar. Learn more at nofa.org/winter.php
 - **New England Grows**, Feb. 5 – 7, Boston - Learn more at newenglandgrows.org
 - **NOFA/RI Winter Conference & Annual Meeting**, "The Past, Present & Future of Organics" Feb. 16, Blithewold, Bristol. Learn more at nofari.org/events/our-events.
 - **Ecological Landscape Association Winter Conference** & Eco-Marketplace, Feb. 26 & 27. Springfield, MA. Learn more at ecolandscaping.org/conference
 - **URI Master Gardeners Symposium**, March 1, URI
 - **Local Food Trade Show**, March 4, Boston, MA. Learn more at bostonlocalfood.com/our-events/buy-local-trade-show.
 - **New England Meat Conference**, March 7 – 8, Concord, NH. Learn more at newenglandmeatconference.org.
 - **Compost Conference**, Salve Regina University, March 10. Learn more at environmentcouncilri.org/content/2014-rhode-island-compost-conference
 - **RI Women in Agriculture Conference**, March 11, URI, Kingston. Learn more at facebook.com/RIWomeninAg
 - **SEMAP's Agriculture & Food Conference**, Greater New Bedford Regional Voc Tech High School, New Bedford, MA, March 22. Learn more at semaponline.org/semap/classes-events. (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - **Spring Garden School**, URI Outreach Center, Roger Williams Park, Providence, March 29. (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - **Welcoming Pollinators to your Garden or Farm**, Earth Day, Apr. 22, Portsmouth Library (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - **URI East Farm Spring Festival**, URI Master Gardeners, May 10
 - **Newport Flower Show**, "Journey: Grand Vistas," June 27-29, 2014. Learn more at newportmansions.org/events/newport-flower-show. (Sanne will be presenting there.)
 - See a national list of conferences at hortcalendar.com/Events/3125/2014-direct-gardening-association-winter-conference.aspx
- Request for future agenda items - suggestions included:
 - Review pending updates/briefs listed above
- Next meeting: March 26, 2014. Future meetings will be final Wednesdays, alternate odd months 6 to 8 p.m. The May or July meeting(s) may be rescheduled due to peak farmer commitments that month.

ADJOURN

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town's boards or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (401) 683-2101 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN HALL IS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. THOSE PERSONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE AT 683-2101 PRIOR TO ANY MEETING.